

From LAND *and* WATER

THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Office of Subsistence Management • 3601 C Street, Suite 1030 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

FALL 2005

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The Federal Subsistence Management Program is a multi-agency effort that emphasizes cooperation and consensus building. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and USDA Forest Service manage the Federal public lands and waters where subsistence activities by rural Alaskans take place.

Keeping Watch in Takotna

Weir provides a window on salmon's return

—By Maureen Clark

It was a warm, sunny July afternoon in the Western Interior village of Takotna, a fine day to do just about anything outdoors. But on this particular day more than two dozen people of all ages were gathered in a darkened room in the community hall to learn more about Kuskokwim River salmon and the Takotna River weir, operating just upriver from the village.

They listened as Doug Molyneaux, research biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, talked about escape-ment of chums, kings and cohos; age and sex composition of spawning salmon; tagging studies; and juvenile salmon distribution. Molyneaux's PowerPoint presentation, with its charts, graphs and photos, explained what information is gathered from the Takotna weir and the importance of that information for salmon management and research throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage.

Two young women, Amanda Goods, 16, and Misty Wachter, 19, gave a presentation on their work as fisheries technicians at the weir. They count and sample salmon passing through the Takotna weir—just a brief pause for the fish in order to gather a bit of information from them before they continue upriver to spawn. Following the

presentations, several of those in attendance took up Molyneaux's invitation to visit the weir for an up-close look at how it operates.

Clearly, the residents of Takotna are serious about salmon science.

It was not too long ago that salmon all but disappeared from the Takotna River. Since the salmon have returned, Takotna residents, young and old, have taken a special interest



ADF&G's Doug Molyneaux shows visitors from McGrath the workings of the Takotna weir.



in seeing that the salmon continue to return each year.

"The salmon are back and everybody's just tickled," said Jan Newton, Takotna Tribal Administrator and long-time resident.

The Gold Rush influx and salmon

Prior to the early 1900s, Athabascan Natives harvested salmon from the Takotna River. Documented interviews with elders



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Letter from the Chair

One of the most important things we can do in life is pass on what we have learned to the next generation. And I am always encouraged when I see young people who



Mitch Demientieff of Nenana has served as chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board since 1995.

are eager to learn—from our ancestors, from formal study or from hands-on experience.

This summer we had 25 such young people working with Alaska Native organizations through our

Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. They spent the summer on a wide variety of assignments—assisting with fisheries

monitoring projects, gathering traditional knowledge, developing programs to mentor high school students, and assisting with science camps. You can learn more about how they spent the summer on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter.

These young people come to their internships with energy and enthusiasm. They gain knowledge and experience. And they finish the summer with a clearer understanding of the opportunities that are open to them. For some, the internship will set them on a career path they might not have otherwise considered.

The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program was established at the request of Alaska Native organizations to help them actively participate in the management of subsistence fisheries. The internships provided through the

Partners Program are an investment in the future. Our hope is that these young people will one day take a leadership role in the management of subsistence resources.

In closing, I would like to say to all of our interns that we take pride in you and your efforts. Know that many individuals and organizations are standing behind you and want you to succeed as you move forward in your careers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mitch Demientieff'.

Mitch Demientieff
Chairman,
Federal Subsistence Board

MEETING CALENDAR

Fall 2005 Regional Advisory Councils

SEPTEMBER

22-23..... Kodiak/Aleutians — *Kodiak*

OCTOBER

4-5 Western Interior — *McGrath*

6-7..... Bristol Bay — *Dillingham*

7 Northwest Arctic — *Kotzebue*

OCTOBER (CONTINUED)

10-11..... Eastern Interior — *Tanana*

11-13..... Southeast — *Wrangell*

13..... Seward Peninsula — *Nome*

13-14..... Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta — *Bethel*

18..... North Slope — *Kaktovik*

25-27..... Southcentral — *Kenai*

Federal Subsistence Board Meetings:

DECEMBER 6, 2005 — Rural Review Meeting — *Anchorage Downtown Marriott*

JANUARY 10-12, 2006 — Fisheries Regulatory Meeting — *Sheraton Anchorage*

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Failure to return State hunt report carries penalties

Federally qualified subsistence hunters who use Alaska Department of Fish and Game registration permits should be aware that, if they fail to return a hunt report, they will not be eligible for any registration, drawing, or Tier II hunting permits next year. They may also face fines.

There are 40 Federal subsistence hunts throughout the state which require the use of Alaska Department of Fish and Game registration permits. The Federal Subsistence Board requires the use of State permits to facilitate the timely collection of harvest data and to simplify reporting requirements for hunters. It also allows Federally qualified subsistence hunters to hunt on both Federal and State lands using a single permit.

Registration permits require hunters to file hunt reports. These reports provide valuable data needed to make management decisions affecting the health of wildlife resources. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game says a growing number of hunters have failed to file hunt reports. ADF&G has been forced to spend increasing amounts of money to send reminder letters to hunters, but incomplete reporting has remained a problem. As a result, the Alaska Board of Game decided in March to institute an ineligibility penalty as an additional consequence for failing to file a hunt report in a timely fashion.

The applicable reporting deadline is listed on each hunt permit. Hunters who fail to report will be notified by mail at the end of the required reporting period and will be given a two-week grace period to provide hunt information. Failure to provide the information within the grace period will result in ineligibility for any registration, drawing or Tier II permits. Hunters who feel this action was taken in error will have until 180 days after the permit hunt closed to appeal. Hunters who fail to report may also be cited by Alaska State Troopers for violation of hunting regulations.

For additional information, please contact Dan LaPlant with the Federal Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3871. ■

Federal Subsistence Board takes action on wildlife regulatory proposals

The Federal Subsistence Board approved changes to Federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations at its May 3-4 meeting in Anchorage. The new regulations are effective through June 30, 2006. Among the changes approved by the Board:

Handicraft regulations clarified

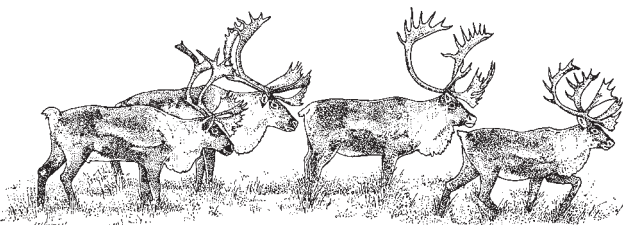
The Board clarified language regarding the sale of handicrafts made with bear fur. The changes approved by the Board state that Federally qualified subsistence users may sell handicrafts made from the skin, hide, pelt or fur — including claws — of black bear harvested on Federal public lands in any region of the state. They also may sell handicrafts made from the skin, hide, pelt or fur — including claws — of brown bear taken on Federal public lands in Southeast, the Eastern Interior and the Bristol Bay regions. These changes are intended to clarify previous decisions by the Board in 2002 and 2004.

The new regulatory language states that handicrafts must be made by rural Alaskans and further defines how the material can be altered for use in making handicrafts. The Board also adopted a provision, proposed by the Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council, to include bones, teeth, sinew and skulls of brown and black bears taken in Southeast among the parts that can be used in handicrafts. The Board deferred action until next year on a provision restricting the commercial sales of handicrafts made from bear parts.

Unit 2 deer hunters use joint hunting report form

The Board approved a requirement that deer hunters within Unit 2 in Southeast Alaska use a joint State/Federal hunting report form. This proposal was developed by the Southeast Regional Advisory Council's Unit 2 deer planning subcommittee. The subcommittee was formed last year to address concerns that subsistence users in Unit 2 are not able to harvest enough deer to meet their needs. Prince of Wales Island makes up most of Unit 2. The subcommittee's goal is to develop a management approach that ensures the long-term conservation of Unit 2 deer, maintains the rural subsistence priority on Federal public lands and minimizes adverse effects on nonrural hunters who also rely on Unit 2 deer. The joint harvest reporting requirement is being implemented in an effort

[continued on page 4]



NEWS IN BRIEF *(Continued from page 3)*

to collect better data on the harvest of Unit 2 deer. The Alaska Board of Game passed a resolution at its March meeting in Anchorage supporting the joint deer harvest reporting requirement.

“A primary goal is to simplify both the regulations and the hunting report process to make them easier for everyone to understand and use,” said Greg Killinger, Craig District ranger with the Forest Service. “Having only one set of harvest tickets for both State and Federal deer seasons, as well as a single reporting system, were priorities identified by both hunters and wildlife managers as ways to improve the hunting experience and harvest information in Unit 2.”

The new hunting report form asks hunters about the number and sex of deer harvested as well as the month and location of the harvest, the number of days spent hunting, and the type of transportation used to get to the hunt area. Doug Larsen, Regional Supervisor with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Division of Wildlife Conservation, said that, in addition to total harvest numbers, information about hunter success and effort is important to gain a better understanding of hunting patterns and the population dynamics of deer in Unit 2.

“We look forward to obtaining accurate hunt and harvest information and to providing the public with the findings,” Larsen said.

Harvest tickets and the new hunting report form can be obtained through vendors in Petersburg, Wrangell, Ketchikan and in Prince of Wales Island communities. The forms are also available from Fish and Game and Forest Service field offices, and from Tribal offices in Craig, Klawock, Kasaan and Hydaburg. The postage-paid form must be returned to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game by January 15, 2006.

Hunters are asked to consult State and Federal regulations for season dates and harvest limits. Federal subsistence hunting regulations can be found on the Web at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>. State hunting regulations can be found on the Web at <http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov>



S. Frost, Forest Service

Comment period reopened on marine jurisdiction proposed rule

The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture have reopened the public comment period on a proposed rule which would revise and clarify the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Management Program in coastal areas of southwestern Alaska. The new deadline for comment on this issue is Oct. 21, 2005.

This proposed change is necessary in order to exclude from Federal subsistence jurisdiction numerous saltwater bays within the boundaries of several national wildlife refuges in western Alaska. These waters were inadvertently included under Federal subsistence jurisdiction in 1999, when Federal subsistence management was expanded to include navigable waters where the Federal government holds reserved water rights. The comment period is being reopened to provide detailed maps of the areas to be excluded. The maps and the proposed rule can be found on the Federal Subsistence Management Program Website at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html> or by contacting the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888.

Under the proposed rule, all of the following areas have been identified for exclusion from jurisdiction under the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

Within the Alaska Peninsula and Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Boundaries

- Wide Bay
- Agripina Bay
- Kujulik Bay
- Chignik Lagoon (including Mallard Duck Bay and Schooner Bay)
- Mud Bay
- Anchorage Bay
- Lake Bay
- Castle Bay
- Warner Bay (including Ross Cove)
- Devils Bay
- Kuiukta Bay (including Portage Bay, Windy Bay, Foot Bay, Fishhook Bay and Herring Lagoon)
- Mitrofanina Bay (including Fishrack Bay)
- Ivanof Bay
- Boulder Bay

NEWS IN BRIEF *(Continued from page 4)*

Fox Bay
American Bay
Albatross Anchorage
Pavlof Bay (including Canoe Bay, Jackson Lagoon
and Chinaman Lagoon)
Long John Lagoon
Dushkin Lagoon
Bear Bay
Cold Bay (including Lenard Harbor and Nurse
Lagoon)
Morzhovoi Bay (including Littlejohn Lagoon)
Traders Cove
Bechevin Bay (including Hotsprings Bay)
Herendeen Bay (including Mine Harbor)
Port Moller (including Mud Bay, Right Head and
Left Head).

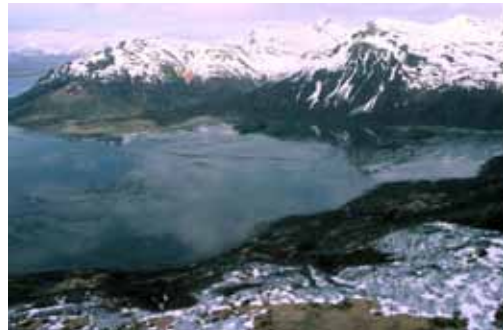
Within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Boundaries

Tvativak Bay
Kulukak Bay
Metervik Bay

Within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Boundaries

Kangirlvar Bay
Hazen Bay
Hooper Bay
Kokechik Bay
Kongishluk Bay

Written comments can be sent by e-mail to subsistence@fws.gov, by fax at (907) 786-3898, or by mail to:
Federal Subsistence Board Attn: Bill Knauer
3601 C St., Suite 1030
Anchorage, AK 99503



Chignik Lagoon

Do you have questions about the subsistence halibut fishery?

The subsistence halibut fishery is managed by the **National Marine Fisheries Service** and the **North Pacific Fishery Management Council**. It is not managed by the Federal Subsistence Board or the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

For information about eligibility, registration requirements and regulations, please contact:

National Marine Fisheries Service

Toll Free: (800) 304-4846 (press option 2)

Juneau: (907) 586-7202

E-mail: RAM.Alaska@noaa.gov

Web: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>

Mail: NMFS/RAM

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, AK 99802-1668

TAKOTNA WEIR *(continued from page 1)*



Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Salmon-fueled dog teams, much like these, were used to haul mining equipment, supplies, mail and people throughout the Innoko mining district.

in the region indicate there were strong runs of Chinook and chum salmon in the river, which were commonly harvested with the use of fish traps.

It's not known why the salmon disappeared, but biologists theorize that the Gold Rush played a role. Gold was discovered in the Innoko Mining District in 1906 and the influx of thousands of gold-seekers and others associated with mining dramatically changed the character of the area.

The Takotna River became a major access route to the gold fields and the community of Takotna was formed as a supply point. Dog teams were the primary means of transporting people, supplies, and mail during the winter. Thousands of dogs were kenneled in Takotna and they were fed dried salmon, salmon likely harvested from the Takotna River and other local streams. Molyneaux suspects this harvest is what led to the disappearance of salmon in the Takotna River, a view shared by many local residents.

Exactly when salmon runs in the river became depleted is not known, but the last fish trap was operated in 1921, and by the 1940s, area residents described the Takotna drainage as being almost devoid of salmon. From discussions with former area biologists and with residents who lived in Takotna during the

"Once the kids are involved the whole community gets involved"

— JAN NEWTON

July Creek, a tributary of the Takotna River. The salmon were returning, and in numbers greater than anyone realized.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game wanted to learn more about salmon abundance in the drainage and residents of Takotna were eager to help. In 1995 a counting tower was set up on the Takotna River, just across from the village, and was staffed by high school students. The Takotna River's dark water, coupled with periods of high water, made it difficult to get reliable counts from the tower, so a weir was installed in 2000 to provide better monitoring. The weir is operated by the

Takotna Tribal Council in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, with funding from the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, the Federal Subsistence Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and the State of Alaska.

The Takotna weir's importance to the management of subsistence fisheries in the Kuskokwim drainage, the cooperative nature of the project, and the high-level of community involvement are important factors that the Fisheries Monitoring Program takes into consideration when selecting projects to fund.

Getting to know salmon

The Tribal council provides staff for the project and Tribal administrator Jan Newton says getting young people involved was always a priority.

"Once the kids are involved, the whole community gets in-



Alfred Perkins nets a salmon from the weir's live trap. Amanda Goods and Misty Wachter will take a scale sample from the fish before sending it back on its way upriver to spawn..

involved,” she said. “It’s been such gung-ho thing with them. Adults ask ‘How many fish did you count today? How big was the biggest?’ The kids are so proud and it’s good training for them, good work experience. And it teaches them responsibility.”

Takotna resident Clinton Goods, a trapper with extensive local knowledge, is the weir project crew leader. Goods says the weir opened everyone’s eyes to salmon biology.

“Before the weir we knew zip about salmon,” Goods said. “Thanks to the weir, we’re getting to the point where we’re able to predict how the runs will be, based on previous years.”

In addition to installing, maintaining and operating the weir, Goods and his crew have sampled other rivers and creeks in the region for juvenile salmon, providing valuable baseline data on the distribution and abundance of various species throughout the drainage.

Drainage-wide significance

While the weir has clearly had a big impact in Takotna, the data gathered from the weir is important for management of subsistence fisheries throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage. Thousands of those who live in the 38 communities along the Kuskokwim depend upon salmon for subsistence. It is one of the largest subsistence fisheries in the state.

While most of the subsistence harvest occurs in the lower Kuskokwim River, most salmon spawn in tributaries far upriver,



Amanda Goods works with a scale sample, which will be sent to ADF&G to determine the age of the fish from which it was taken.



A fish-friendly holding box, designed by Clinton Goods, keeps the fish immersed in water while the fisheries technician removes a scale.



This coho salmon was tagged in Kalskag, 350 miles downstream of the Takotna weir. Tag recoveries at the weir have allowed biologists to determine that the Takotna River salmon are among the earliest arrivals of adult salmon entering the lower Kuskokwim River each year.

to spawn in the Takotna River are among those that arrive earliest at the mouth of the Kuskokwim.

“Subsistence fishers in the lower Kuskokwim River depend heavily on the salmon catches from the early part of the salmon runs and we’ve learned that these early arriving fish are headed for spawning grounds in the upper Kuskokwim River,” Molyneaux said. “This was a fundamental insight for fisheries managers. Takotna weir provided a vital role in gaining this insight—information that is a basic requirement for long-term sustainable management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries.” ■

Thanks to Clinton Goods and Doug Molyneaux for assistance and photos. Maureen Clark is the Public Affairs Specialist with the Office of Subsistence Management.



Members of the Federal Subsistence Board, staff, and local residents listen as Regional Advisory Council member Andrew Bassich of Eagle talks about how fisheries management decisions affect subsistence users on the upper Yukon.

Subsistence Board visits upper Yukon River communities

Members of the Federal Subsistence Board, Federal subsistence staff and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner McKie Campbell traveled to the upper Yukon River in late July to meet with subsistence users and to learn more about subsistence issues in the region.

The trip provided an opportunity to connect with those who depend upon fish and wildlife for their daily needs and to learn more about fishery research and monitoring projects in the area. After leaving Canada, the upper Yukon River passes through the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. It is a region rich in wildlife and fish, both of which are vital to those who live there.

The Board's trip began in Fairbanks, with briefings from scientists involved in fishery management and research on the river. Ted Heuer, manager of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, provided an overview of the region. Russ Holder, the Board's delegated Yukon River fisheries manager, talked about the complexities involved in management of Yukon River salmon stocks.

Jeff Adams, branch chief of Assessment and Monitoring with the Fairbanks Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, talked about several of the six fisheries assessment and monitoring projects the office operates each summer, most of which receive funding from the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

"The Office of Subsistence Management is a critical partner in what we do," Adams said.



Eagle Village Chief Isaac Juneby welcomes Board Chairman Mitch Demientieff at a potlatch.

The Board also met with Harold "Buddy" Brown of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the nonprofit agency that represents 42 Interior Alaska villages.

"Our main concerns are protecting the resources so

that they will always be there for our villages and ensuring that subsistence needs are being met,” Brown told the Board.

From Fairbanks, the Board headed to Chalkyitsik, and a meeting of the Tribal Chiefs of the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments. The Chiefs took a break from a busy meeting to welcome the Board and to share a community meal.

From there, the Board went to Fort Yukon, where Richard Carroll, a hunter, trapper, fisherman and tour guide, led the group on a tour of the community and took them to visit his fishwheel. In Beaver, those residents who weren't busy catching fish hosted Board members at a lunch beside the Yukon River.

The trip wrapped up in Eagle, where the Board was welcomed by Chief Isaac Juneby at a potlatch for Athabaskan neighbors from Dawson City. Board members visited a sonar site operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and a fishwheel operated by Andrew Bassich, a Regional Advisory Council member for the Eastern Interior. The Board also had an opportunity to visit with local subsistence users Florence Johnson and Wayne and Scarlett Hall.

“This river is truly a lifeline for us,” Wayne Hall told the Board members. “We want you to understand, from people who live this lifestyle, how critical your decisions are. Keep us in mind when an issue comes up.” ■



On the river

...and from *Washington, D.C.*

Interior officials visit fish camps, fisheries projects

Two Interior Department officials from Washington, D.C. visited Alaska this summer and learned more about subsistence and the Federal Subsistence Management Program during their visits.

Lynn Scarlett is Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and

Budget and has been nominated to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Interior. In early July, she traveled to the Yukon River fish camp of Franklin Dayton Sr. of Koyukuk, where he and members of his family were drying and smoking fish. They took time out from their efforts to talk with the assistant secretary about the importance of subsistence to their extended family. Scarlett also traveled to the Henshaw Creek weir,



Franklin Dayton Sr. and Lynn Scarlett at Dayton's Yukon River fish camp

in the upper Koyukuk River drainage. While at the weir, she watched the crew count fish, assisted the crew in taking scale samples from salmon, and learned about the importance of the weir to the overall management of the fishery.

“Managing subsistence activities in Alaska requires combining science with on-the-ground insights of Alaskans who rely on wildlife for food and to sustain rural lifestyles and traditional cultures,” Scarlett said. “Seeing a fish camp in operation and participating — for a few moments — in a science research project gave me a feel for both the importance and complexities of managing the subsistence program.”

Brian Waidmann, Chief of Staff for Interior Secretary Gail Norton, visited Bethel, the village of Tuluksak and the Tuluksak weir project before traveling on to Togiak. His visit enabled him to learn about traditional subsistence practices and about the work being done to sustain subsistence fisheries.

“I thought the trip was fascinating. I learned an incredible amount about both fisheries management and subsistence,” Waidmann said. “To see first hand, that an entire village is dependent on what they fish and hunt and to see the scientific work of the Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that salmon are not depleted — it was an experience that cannot be learned on paper.”



From left to right: Tuluksak weir crew volunteer, Melissa Gamber; Crew Leader Brittany Blaine, DOI Special Assistant for Alaska, Cam Toohey, and DOI Chief of Staff, Brian Waidman.

Partners for Fisheries Monitoring

Interns: Credit where credit is due

Never mind that they weren't in a classroom, it was a summer of learning for the interns with the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. And now, they can get college credit for their on-the-job experience.

This year the Partners Program funded the hiring of 25 high school and college interns, up from 10 last year. They are mentored by the biologists and social scientists who work within our Partner organizations. The internships offer these young people an opportunity to get their feet wet in the world of work — sometimes quite literally. Their experience runs the gamut — from working at fish weirs and counting towers, to assisting with science camps, to gathering the traditional knowledge of elders. It is work that is worthy of college credit, said Liz Brown, an Assistant Professor with the



Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program Interns - August 2005

Marine Advisory Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

Brown first heard about the internship program when she moved to Dillingham from Unalaska two years ago.

"I heard about the program and the work they were doing and a light went on in my head. I wondered, 'Are they getting credit?'" When she learned they were not, she developed a syllabus, which was approved by the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

Depending upon what level the students are at in their studies and on the amount of work they're willing to do, they can either earn one lower division credit on a pass/fail basis or three upper division credits with a grade.

The interns got a chance to show what they've learned on Aug. 18 when they convened at the regional office of the U.S.



Kuskokwim Native Association Intern Samantha Epchook inserting a radio transmitter in a whitefish. "When you do all this stuff you have to be serious about it," she said.

Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage and gave presentations on the work they did during their internships.

"Not only are they out getting great experience, but their presentations are excellent. They are poised and polished," Brown said. ■

For more information about the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program and internship opportunities contact Beth Spangler at (907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456 or by e-mail, beth_spangler@fws.gov

"Each and every day, each and every minute was a learning experience."

— LAURA SORENSEN



Bristol Bay Native Association Interns Violet Apalayuk (left) of Manokotak and Laura Sorensen (right) of Dillingham learned about the medicinal properties of local plants from Elena Gumlickpuk (center) of New Stuyahok.

Partner News

New fisheries biologist at AVCP

Eva Patton began work as the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring biologist for the Association of Village Council Presidents on June 1, and quickly got to work on fisheries monitoring projects and the development of educational programs and internship opportunities.

"So far, I've been very pleased to work with many great people from several Kuskokwim River villages, as well as within AVCP and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," she said.

Eva has a degree in wildlife ecology and conservation biology from the University of Washington. Her educational background also includes coursework in ethnobiology, Native American natural resource issues, and courses in Pacific Northwest and Alaska Native culture, history and current issues. She has also studied local and indigenous resource management in India and Central America.

Eva has worked for the past 10 years on wildlife and aquatic ecology research in Washington, Oregon, Southeast Alaska, and recently spent a year working in the Aleutians with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Over the years Eva has worked with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, Pacific Southwest Research Station, U.S. Geological Survey, and Mount Rainier National Park.

In these positions, she has managed wildlife research projects and aquatics work, including fish and amphibian inventory and monitoring, radio telemetry, stream habitat mapping, studies of the impacts of introduced trout in streams and lakes, and studies investigating the effectiveness of riparian buffers. Eva also volunteered on research projects with the Skagit System Cooperative, a fisheries research and restoration agency of the Swinomish and Sauk-Suiattle tribes in Washington, assessing the relationship between beaver and coho salmon, and another project monitoring the response of Chinook salmon, shorebirds and waterfowl to estuarine restoration on the Skagit Delta.

Eva is based in Bethel. In her work with AVCP, she wants to further develop the internship program, implement Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects, and bring forth traditional knowledge to help inform fisheries management in the Kuskokwim region. ■



RURAL REVIEW *Call for Comments*

The Federal Subsistence Board has narrowed the scope of its rural review process and is seeking comments through Oct. 28, 2005 on a list of 10 communities and areas proposed for further analysis. In addition, the Board will hold a public meeting at the Anchorage Downtown Marriott on December 6, 2005 and will take additional comments on this issue at that meeting.

From January to July 2005, Federal subsistence staff conducted an initial review of the rural/nonrural status of all Alaska communities, with an emphasis on what has changed since 1990. As a result of this initial review, it was determined that the rural/nonrural status of most Alaska communities should remain unchanged.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act requires that rural Alaskans be given a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands. Only communities that are found to be rural are eligible for this subsistence priority. The Board initially determined which Alaska communities were rural when the Federal Subsistence Management Program began in 1990. Federal subsistence regulations require that rural/nonrural status be reviewed every 10 years, beginning with the availability of the 2000 census data.

Under Federal subsistence regulations:

- **A community with a population below 2,500** is considered rural, unless it possesses significant characteristics of a nonrural nature or is considered to be socially and economically part of a nonrural area.
- **A community with a population of more than 7,000** is considered nonrural unless it possesses significant characteristics of a rural nature.
- **A community with a population above 2,500, but not more than 7,000** will be evaluated to determine its rural/nonrural status. The community characteristics considered in this evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the diversity and development of the local economy, the use of fish and wildlife, community infrastructure, transportation and educational institutions.
- Communities that are economically, socially and communally integrated will be grouped for evaluation purposes.

Ten communities and areas are proposed for further analysis to determine if their rural/nonrural status should change. These communities include:

Kodiak: Currently considered rural, Kodiak is recommended for further analysis because its population increased further above the 7,000 threshold between the 1990 and 2000 census.

Sitka: Currently considered rural, Sitka is recommended for further analysis because its population increased further above the 7,000 threshold between the 1990 and 2000 census.

Adak: Currently considered nonrural, Adak is recommended for further analysis because its population has decreased and is now below the 2,500 threshold.

For six nonrural groupings or communities, further analysis is recommended to evaluate excluding or including places, as described below:

Fairbanks North Star Borough: Evaluate whether to continue using the entire borough as the nonrural area, or separate some outlying areas and evaluate their rural/nonrural status independently.

Kenai Area: Evaluate whether to exclude Clam Gulch from this nonrural grouping and evaluate its rural/nonrural status independently.

Seward Area: Evaluate whether to exclude Moose Pass from this nonrural grouping and evaluate its rural/nonrural status independently.

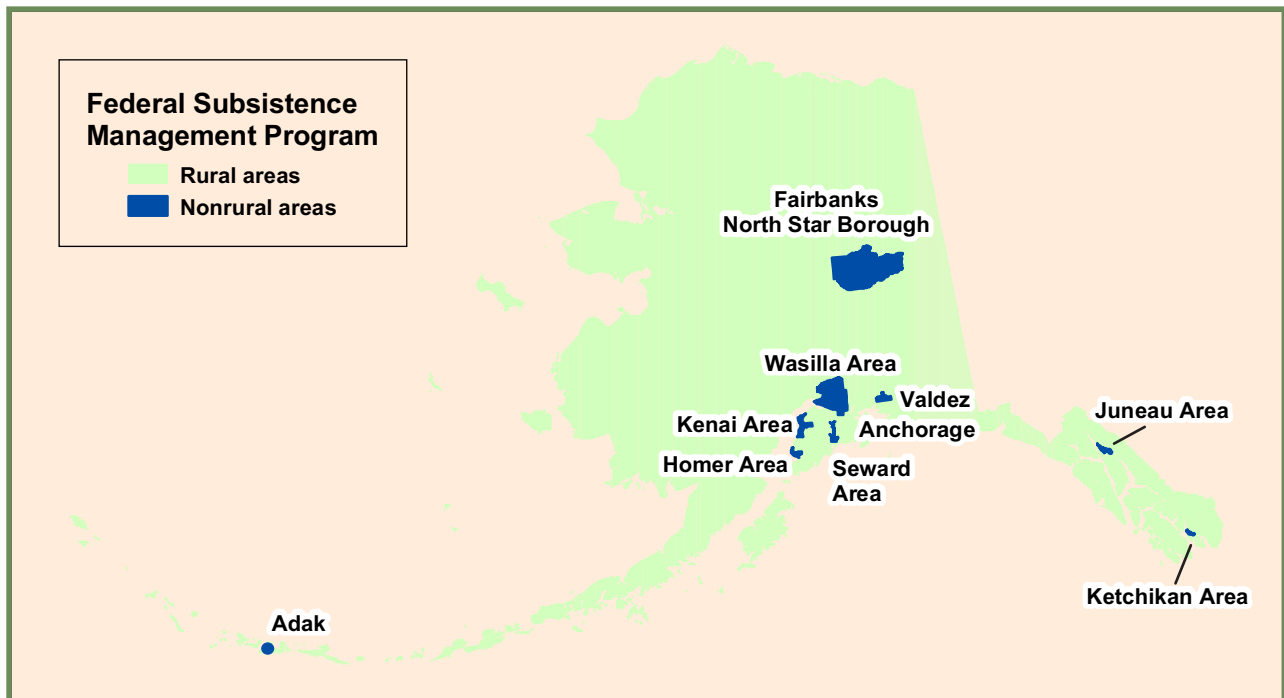
Wasilla Area: Evaluate whether to include Willow and Point MacKenzie in this nonrural grouping.

Homer Area: Evaluate whether to include Fox River and Happy Valley in this nonrural grouping.

Ketchikan Area: Evaluate whether to include Saxman, and areas of growth and development outside the current boundary, in this nonrural grouping.

In addition, one potential new grouping is recommended for further analysis, as follows:

Delta Junction, Big Delta, Deltana and Fort Greely: Evaluate whether some or all of these places should be grouped and their rural/nonrural status evaluated collectively.



The Board is seeking comments on whether communities or areas should be added to, or removed from, this proposed list and on the rural or nonrural status and characteristics of these communities.

After considering these comments, the Board will approve a final list of communities for further analysis at the December 2005 meeting. Detailed analyses will be conducted on those communities in 2006 and there will be additional opportunities for comment. The Board is expected to decide on any changes to the rural or nonrural status of those communities in December 2006.

Written comments will be accepted through Oct. 28, 2005 and can be sent to the Board by e-mail to subsistence@fws.gov, by fax at (907) 786-3898, or by mail to:

Federal Subsistence Board Attn:Theo Matuskowitz
Office of Subsistence Management
3601 C Street, Suite 1030
Anchorage, AK 99503

For additional information

Contact

Maureen Clark or Larry Buklis
Office of Subsistence Management
(800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888.

Additional information on the initial review can be found in the report:

*"Decennial Review of Rural Determinations:
A Report to the Federal Subsistence Board on Initial
Comments Received and Considerations for Further
Analysis."*

This report can be found on the Web at

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>

or by contacting the Office of Subsistence Management.

Serving Subsistence

Would you or someone you know like to serve on a Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council? The Federal Subsistence Board is accepting nominations and applications from those interested in serving on one of the 10 Regional Advisory Councils that advise the Board on subsistence fishing, hunting and trapping regulations.



- Appointments are generally for a 3-year term.
- Each Council meets at least twice a year.
- Seats are open to subsistence, commercial and sport users.
- Membership is open statewide.

Deadline: January 3, 2006

For an application packet or more information, contact Ann Wilkinson at (907) 786-3676 or (800) 478-1456 or by e-mail at ann_wilkinson@fws.gov.

ANILCA at 25

December 2, 2005 marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. In addition to expanding existing conservation lands and creating new parks and refuges, ANILCA provides for protection of subsistence resources and provides rural Alaska residents with a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and waters. It also provides an avenue for local people to have a meaningful role in subsistence management through a system of Regional Advisory Councils and Subsistence Resource Commissions. In addition, it ensures that rural residents shall have reasonable access to subsistence resources on Federal public lands and it requires that research be done on fish, wildlife and subsistence uses. The Federal Subsistence Management Program works to ensure that promises made in ANILCA are kept.

ANILCA defines subsistence uses as **“the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of non-edible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; for barter, or sharing for personal family consumption; and for customary trade.”**



Dave Andersen Photo

Farewell to a Friend

John A. Hanson

July 16, 1931 — May 14, 2005

John Alvin Hanson, age 73, died May 14, 2005 after a brief illness following a massive stroke. Mr. Hanson, a resident of Alakanuk, had served on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council since 1998. He was an avid, lifelong fisherman and subsistence hunter and a dedicated advocate for the subsistence way of life. His service on the Council will be greatly missed.

His family shared the following obituary:

John was born in Kwigmiut on July 16, 1931, attended school at the Akulurak Catholic Mission and eventually settled in Alakanuk.

In his younger days, John was one of the first volunteer village police officers and a medical aide. He was also a member of the Alaska Territorial Guard and later joined the Army National Guard as First Sergeant when Alaska became a state. He was a fisherman for the Alakanuk cannery, a store manager, and a fisheries manager for the Alakanuk Native Corporation, where he also served as its president. John helped construct many of the first airfields around the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta as a heavy-equipment operator.

Throughout his life, John served as a member of the Alakanuk City Council, Lower Yukon School District Regional School Board, Nunam Kitlusisti, and the Alaska Board of Fisheries. At his death, he was chairman of Alakanuk Schools Advisory School Board, a member of the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative Delegates Committee, and Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee. He also served his community by making coffins for the deceased in his village.

John remained active until his passing, continuing to hunt and fish and stay involved in fish and wildlife issues, as well as other issues. He owned a riverboat piloting business, helping tugs maneuver through the tricky Yukon River, managed and maintained the Alakanuk airport, and volunteered his time as president of the St. Ignatius Catholic Church Parish Council.

When duties weren't calling him away from home to represent his people on issues close to his heart, he could be found spending time with his beloved family, taking them out hunting and fishing, showing and teaching them the way of life he believed in so much and fought to protect. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Alice; children Hannah, Anna Marie, John E., Marita, Wilfred, Gwen, and Ryan; and many grandchildren. ■



Wildlife Proposal Deadline

Proposals to change Federal Subsistence hunting and trapping regulations will be accepted through October 21, 2005.

The Federal Subsistence Board will consider changes to seasons, harvest limits, methods of harvest, and customary and traditional use determinations for the harvest of wildlife at its May 2006 meeting.

For more information contact the Office of Subsistence Management at (907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456.

From LAND *and* WATER

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From Land and Water can also be found on the Web at:

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